

## **CHAPTER 7 Intergovernmental Cooperation Element**

The intergovernmental cooperation chapter identifies opportunities for establishing or maintaining cooperation between units of government to aid in the recognition and possible resolution of conflicts between jurisdictions, and allows for the identification of mutual service needs and improvements.

### **Section 7.1 Inventory and Analysis of Intergovernmental Agreements**

As the Town of Plover develops over the next 20 years it is important for them to continue to work with surrounding municipalities, school districts, and other governmental units.

#### **A. Adjacent Units of Government**

The Town of Plover shares borders with the Portage County Towns of Buena Vista to the southeast, Grant to the southwest, Stockton to the east and with the Village of Plover to the north, the City of Stevens Point, and, in Wood County, the Village of Biron and the City of Wisconsin Rapids.

##### **1. Village of Plover**

The Town of Plover has agreements with the Village for provision of fire and first responder services. The fire station is located on Post Road in the Village. In addition, the Town co-owns the Plover Cemetery with the Village of Plover. More detailed information about these shared services can be found in the Utilities and Community Facilities Element of this Comprehensive Plan.

In response to increasing pressure from Village of Plover development requests, the Town and Village of Plover entered into an intergovernmental agreement on revenue sharing, permanent Town/Village boundaries, and provision of sewer and water without annexation. This agreement is attached to this document as Appendix F, and is illustrated in Map 8.4 of the Land Use Element. **Beginning in the fall of 2014 efforts began to extend the termination date of the boundary agreement segment by five-year increments.**

##### **2. City of Stevens Point**

As stated in the Issues and Opportunities element, the Town of Plover and the City of Stevens Point entered into a mutual boundary adjustment agreement in 1995 that earmarked two areas of the Town for future annexation into the City. Sewer and water services were provided to these areas for a period of ten years before annexation took place in two phases, with the second phase being completed at the end of 2007. The boundary adjustment resulted in the Town's population decreasing by approximately 500 residents.

##### **3. Adjacent Communities**

The Town of Plover has agreements with surrounding Towns of Stockton, Buena Vista and Grant for snow removal and road maintenance on local roads that are located along the Town boundaries.

**B. School Districts**

The Town of Plover is served by two school districts; the Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids School Districts. The primary form of interaction with these entities is through the payment of property taxes which, in part, help to fund the districts. The Town participates with both districts on issues pertaining to administration or siting of new facilities via referenda.

The Stevens Point District offers bus service through district-operated buses and one contracted bus to transport students. The Wisconsin Rapids School District contracts with private bus companies that provide bus service to students.

**C. Portage County**

**1. Portage County Solid Waste**

The Town of Plover currently contracts with a private contractor for curbside pick-up of solid waste and recycling materials. Waste is taken to the Portage County Landfill in the Town of Stockton, while recyclables are taken to the County’s Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in the Village of Plover.

**2. Portage County Highway Department**

The Highway Department of Portage County maintains and plows State and County Highways in the Town. This Department also administers the application process for local road projects as part of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s Local Roads Improvement Program. Portage County also provides contractual services when necessary for major road projects within the Town of Plover.

**3. Portage County Police and Ambulance**

The Town relies on the Portage County Sheriff’s Department to provide protective services through patrols and “on-call” support. Extra services are rendered when necessary. Portage County also provides the Ambulance Service for the Town. See the Utilities and Community Facilities Chapter of this Comprehensive Plan for more detailed information.

**4. Portage County Planning and Zoning Department**

There are currently seven different sections operating under the Planning and Zoning Department; they include Planning, Zoning and Code Administration, Land Conservation, On-Site Waste, Groundwater Management, Justice, and Economic and Business Park Development.

**5. Portage County Parks Department**

The Portage County Parks, including Galecke Park, are open all year; however, they are only maintained by the Department from May 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Town interacts with the Parks Department on an as-needed basis as issues arise.

**D. Wood County**

**1. Village of Biron**

The Village of Biron provides many residential and recreational amenities as well as water and sewer. Collaboration with the Village of Biron regarding the extension of utilities might be a consideration which could support residential development in the Town of Plover in that western side of the town.

**2. City of Wisconsin Rapids**

The City of Wisconsin Rapids would stand to gain from increased residential movement from the Village of Plover should a pathway be provided thru the Town of Plover. This pathway is seen as a link to the Green Circle and other recreational opportunities in both the City of Stevens Point and the Village of Plover as well as the City of Wisconsin Rapids.

Establish dialog with adjacent communities to examine future possibilities in land use planning, development of a future interconnecting recreational pathway and promotion of municipal activities. Intergovernmental cooperation could be mutually beneficial to all municipalities not only commercially but also in the area of tourism.

**E. State of Wisconsin**

The two primary State agencies that the Town of Plover interacts with are the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). The DNR is responsible for natural resource protection, compliance monitoring, and law enforcement. WisDOT is responsible for the planning and development of road networks and associated infrastructure and is the lead agency for the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP). Town road improvement projects must be submitted as part of a two year improvement plan.

**Section 7.2 Identification of Existing or Potential Issues and Conflicts with Other Governmental Units**

The Town Plan Commission did not identify any specific conflicts with other governmental units.

**Section 7.3 Issues/Conclusions Regarding Intergovernmental Relations and Possible Methods of Conflict Resolution**

The Town will continue its intergovernmental agreements with surrounding communities and meet with them on a periodic basis to review how relationships and services can be improved. General methods of conflict resolution that the Town may explore include negotiation, compromise, or third-party mediation.

**Section 7.4 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives and Policies**

**A. Goals**

1. Strive toward on-going improvement of intergovernmental relationships.

**B. Objectives**

1. Communicate with surrounding municipalities for discussion of land use issues along adjacent boundaries.
2. Share services of other municipalities and counties when possible
3. Work with other Portage County municipalities to help promote economic development.
4. Work with other units of government to help preserve natural resources and open spaces in the Town of Plover.
5. Work with all governmental units to cause up-front communications on all projects.

**C. Policies**

1. Meet with adjacent units of government as needed.
2. Periodically review intergovernmental agreements (e.g. boundary agreements, shared roads, etc).